IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A packet voice gateway, comprising:

~~a first port adapted to interface a circuit switched network;~~

~~a second port adapted to interface a packet based signals network;~~

a first converter to convert first line side local switch signaling to packet based signaling~~packet based signals arriving at the first port to circuit switched signals~~; and

a second converter to convert first 64 Kbps voice payload to first Voice over Internet Protocol (IP) packets~~circuit switched signals arriving at the second port to packet based signals;~~ ~~and~~

~~inter-connection circuitry to inter connect the first and second ports~~.

2. (New) The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising:

a third converter to convert second Voice over IP packets to second line side local switch signaling; and

a fourth converter to convert third Voice over IP packets to second 64 Kbps voice payload.

3. (New) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the first converter comprises a V5.2 switch interface.

4. (New ) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the packet based signaling is compliant with Media Gateway Control Protocol.

5. (New) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the packet based signaling is compliant with Signaling Gateway Control Protocol.

6. (New) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the packet based signaling is compliant with H.323.

7. (New) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the packet based signaling is compliant with Session Initiation Protocol.

8. (New) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the first Voice over IP packets are transmitted to a cable modem with a multimedia terminal adapter.

9. (New) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the first Voice over IP packets are transmitted to a cable modem termination system with an edge router.

10. (New) A method for managing signals, comprising:

converting first line side local switch signaling to packet based signaling; and

converting first 64 Kbps voice payload to first Voice over Internet Protocol (IP) packets.

11. (New) The method of Claim 10, further comprising:

converting second Voice over IP packets to second line side local switch signaling; and

converting third Voice over IP packets to second 64 Kbps voice payload.

12. (New) The method of Claim 10, further comprising transmitting the first Voice over IP packets to a cable modem with a multimedia terminal adapter.

13. (New) The method of Claim 1, further comprising transmitting the first Voice over IP packets to a cable modem termination system with anedge router.